(b) if so, what is the total quantity (with value) of edible oils which have become unfit for consumption due to long storage;

(c) what are the reasons for not disposing of the edible oil within the reasonable time; and

(d) whether Government have made any inquiry into the negligence causing huge loss to Government, if so, what is the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) to (d) Under MIO, the NDDB is required to procure and stock oils and carry inventory of oils to lean season. Whenever the availability of edible oils improves, the stocks of oil under MIO have to be carried forward for a much longer period. This alongwith the accumulation of bottom cargo over a period, at times, results in certain quantity of low quality oils which, though unfit for direct human consumption, can be used after refining. All feasible precautions have been taken by NDDB to ensure that maximum stocks under MIO are disposed of as quality edible oils.

Starvation Deaths near Amravati (Maharashtra)

109. DR. BAPU KALDATE
SMT. KAMLA SINHA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the large number of starvation deaths of tribal children near Amravati (Maharashtra);

(b) if so, whether any assessment of the situation has been made by a Central team;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) what measures have been taken by Government to deal with the situation and to provide adequate Central assistance to the State Government of Maharashtra to implement the programme to meet the problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Incentives to Tobacco Farmers in Andhra Pradesh

110. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the incentives being considered to assist tobacco farmers in increasing their yield per acre and quality of tobacco grown in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) whether any financial incentives will be offered to farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b) The Tobacco Board in the Ministry of Commerce has been implementing tobacco schemes for increasing the yield and quality of tobacco in Andhra Pradesh. Financial assistance in the shape of subsidy is being given under above schemes to the tobacco farmers for the implementation of various components such as pest & disease control, sprinkler sets, suckercides, balanced fertilisation, roof insulation of barns, furnance sets etc.

Production of Pulses in the Country

111. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a mission oriented programme to increase production of pulses in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to boost production of pulses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL

ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) The Pulses Production Programme has already been brought under the preview of Technology Mission on Oilseeds & Pulses with effect from August, 1990.

(b) In order to augment the production and productivity four mini mission are working as under :

Mini Mission-I : To evolve profitable crop production and protection technologies for various regions and crop growing situation.

Mini Mission-II: Establishment of modern dal milling systems for rural and organised sectors for complete modernisation. Development of pulse based products and beneficiation of minor pulses and technology transfer.

Mini Mission-III : Increase the production of pulses from 12.62 million tonnes (average 1986—91) to 17.00 million tonnes by 1996-97.

Mini Mission-IV : To ensure remmunerative prices to farmers growing pulses and stabilise the prices of pulses in the market, to expand and modernise pulses storage facilities, to modernise existing processing facilities for pulses; to modernise the marketing system through better packaging to meet consumers requirements, to increase the availability of a valuable protein supplement at fair prices to consumers and to reduce import of pulses and outflow of foreign exchange.

(c) The Centrally Sponsored National Pulses Development Project (NPDP) is operative in 24 States and UTs of Delhi and A & N Islands with the objective to increase the production and productivity of pulses by adoption of latest production technologies.

Subsidy for Lift Irrigation

112. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have revised the scheme for providing subsidy for 'Lift Irrigation' installed by farmers ;

(b) whether there is any enhancement in the norms for providing financial assistance by way of subsidy or grant ; and

(c) what is the total acreage to be covered and the funds allocated for 1993-94 and for the balance period of Eighth Five Year Plan, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) to (c) Ministry of Rural Development under their Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) provides assistance for irrigation schemes such as Lift Irrigation Installed by Small and Marginal Farmers having income below the cut off line of Rs. 8500. Assistance is partly given in the form of subsidy by Government and partly as loans advanced by Banks. With effect from April, 1993, pattern of subsidy for all Projects financed under IRDP has been enhanced by Rs. 1000. Existing pattern of subsidy for various schemes including Lift Irrigation is given in statement (*See* below).

Projectwise allocation for Irrigation etc. is not made under IRDP. Total allocation for the programme as a whole in 1993-94 is Rs. 1093.43 crores, of which Central share is Rs. 547.61 crores. Central allocation for the entire period of Eighth Five Year Plan for IRDP is Rs. 3350 crores.